

REMARKS

The status of the parent application has been updated as requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, can be withdrawn in light of the foregoing changes. Antecedent basis has been provided as well as an indication of what the powder mixture constitutes. Claims 1 et seq. relate to a method of manufacturing a titanium dioxide powder material which is a titanium dioxide powder having a barium compound present on the surfaces of the titanium dioxide powder particles. Claims 7 et seq. concern manufacturing a barium titanate from the powder material resulting from the process of claim 1 by mixing it with a barium compound powder and calcining the resulting powder mixture. A new series of claims have been presented in which the method of making the barium titanate is set forth starting from the point in time in which the powder mixture has been provided.

It is also respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Japan 5-116943 can be withdrawn in light of the foregoing amendments and the following observations. This reference, which was also cited in the parent patent, does not teach or suggest attaching a small amount of barium to a titanium dioxide powder nor mixing the resulting material with a barium powder and calcining the resulting powder mixture. The Japanese reference thus is effectively the same as the procedure in application Example 2 in which no barium alkoxide was added. As shown in Figure 3, both the c/a axial ratio and the specific surface area of barium titanate forming following the reference's process were inferior when compared to a barium titanate formed using a titanium oxide powder having a barium compound on its surface. Nothing in the reference teaches or suggests that this result could be achieved. Thus, the claimed process provides surprising and unexpected results.

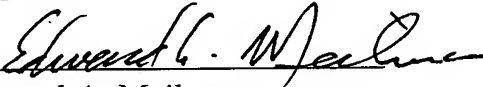
Application No. 10/677,373
Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2006
Amendment dated December 15, 2006

Docket No.: M1071.1869

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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